

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXI NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2008



EBARC Meeting

Aug 8, 2008
7:30 p.m.

To Be Announced

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets the second Friday of each month
at the Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante.

The Executive Board meets the Monday before each general meeting at 7:30 p.m.
at the W6CUS club station, 3200 Macdonald Ave. Richmond.



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El Cerrito, CA 94530

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Sep. issue: Tuesday, Aug. 19th

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]

President's Sidetone

Jack Burris, K6JEB

Field Day 2008 was a resounding success. Despite the howling winds during the Friday set-up, we were able to deploy our three main tri-bander masts by 5 p.m. The new tents got rave reviews as well. Visitors were many. Big thanks go to Sharon, AA6XZ, who ran the Get On The Air station, can take credit for tutoring a six-year-old through her first radio contact on the air. Thanks also to Jerry, KG6TT for taking the lead with the SSB station and his wry wit. Thanks to Alan, K6SRZ and Dean, N6BV for taking our CW station to new heights. Thanks to Nathan, KI6PVO, for jumping right in and making a bunch of VHF contacts for us. Thanks to Peter, W6DEI who not only ran a great PSK station and mentored numerous hams on using the digital modes; he was there from start to finish making sure everything ran smoothly. Thanks to Stanton for keeping the generator going for the duration of Field Day. Thanks to Craig, KI6EMD, and Maria, KI6ENT, for the tasty food they brought Saturday evening. Thanks to Mark, AF6FR, for bringing pizza and helping with take-down. Thanks to Kit for the midnight chicken soup. Thanks to Randy, KA6BQF for help with set-up and his

awesome pickup mast. Thanks to Don, KE6ZFP, for help with set-up and take-down. And big thanks to all whom I haven't mentioned. Your help with set-up, take-down, operating, and even just cheering-on EBARC made a big difference!

The bands are beginning to come alive! This past weekend there was quite a bit of DX activity on 30 and 20 meters. Like me, some of you might have mistaken the previous months' lack of sunspot activity as a possible indicator of a Maunder minimum [Wikipedia: "the period roughly from 1645 to 1715, when sunspots became exceedingly rare, as noted by solar observers of the time. It is named after the solar astronomer Edward W. Maunder (1851-1928) who discovered the dearth of sunspots during that period by studying records from those years. During one 30-year period within the Maunder Minimum, for example, astronomers observed only about 50 sunspots, as opposed to a more typical 40,000-50,000 spots. . . ."]. However, as of this morning there were 11 sunspots that had been counted on the surface of the sun.

This year has been a busy one for me with a lot of new obligations to tend to. I've enjoyed my time as President of EBARC. However at the end of this year, I would like to step down and let someone else take the helm. Don't worry, I won't be going far.

Lastly, I want to give a plug for the EBARC/CCCC's picnic on August 17th. I'd like to challenge EBARC members to set up a working HF station at the picnic. Plenty of open space and tall trees abound for antennas.

73 de K6JEB
Jack

[For photos, see the EBARC Web site at http://www.eastbayarc.org/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=413]

Field Day 2008 Results

Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

2008 was another fun and successful Field Day for EBARC. I think the club should be rightfully proud of its effort, and it certainly takes an awful lot of effort to pull this off each year. Just how successful we were is a matter of considerable subjectivity, of course, but there are some very objective measures as well. As usual, we set up our site in the most public of places, since an important aspect of Field Day is exposing the general public to amateur radio. There was no shortage of passersby that stopped into our GOTA tent and took away a greater understanding of what ham radio is all about. Our QSO scores were excellent as well and demonstrate that we can put together effective portable stations and operate them skillfully. Here's our point score breakdown:

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency Power - 300 pts.
Media Publicity - 100 pts.
Set-up in Public - 100 pts.
Information Booth - 100 pts.
NTS message to Sec. Mgr. - 100 pts.
10 NTS messages - 100 pts.
Youth Participation - 60 pts.
GOTA bonus - 40 pts.
Online entry submission - 50 pts.
Educational Activity - 100 pts.

QSO Points:

CW 1046 QSOs - 4184 pts.
PSK 179 QSOs - 716 pts.
Phone 605 QSOs - 1210 pts

Total Point Score: 7,160 pts.

And now the subjective impressions: I think just about everyone had a great time - even those who exhausted themselves hauling, setting up, and tearing down all the equipment or staying up into the wee hours of the night making QSO after QSO. It's a good kind of exhaustion, right? Thanks to everyone who

helped feed us, took a turn on the radios, kept the generators running, did PR with all the visitors we had, or took the initiative to handle any of the many other tasks that come with running a great Field Day operation.

4Cs/EBARC Picnic

The annual 4Cs/EBARC picnic will be on Sunday, August 17th. Bring yourself, family, and significant others to join in the fun. The location is the same as last year, Miller Knox Park in Point Richmond. Frivolity starts about 11 a.m., with food to follow. There's no fee. Help with setup/cleanup is appreciated. We hope to see you there!

There is a recall on some models of Radio Shack power supplies, due to fire hazard. If you have a Radio Shack power supply, check their Web site for more information: <http://www.radioshack.com/recall>

California Highway Patrol Email "Texx" Woodworth, KG6ATH

Date: Tue, 27 May 2008 07:48:20 -0700
From: Fran Clader <FClader@chp.ca.gov>
Subject: Re: New Cell Phone Laws – 7/1/2008

The new cell phone laws involve only wireless telephones. They do not concern radios such as your (Amateur Radios), unless they are also wireless telephones. Again, the law only applies to wireless telephones.

Thanks for your inquiry. If you have any further questions, please give us a call. Or, you can call your local CHP area office.

Fran Clader, Commander
Office of Media Relations
California Highway Patrol
(916) 657-7202

ARRL Tells Red Cross of Remaining Background Check Policy Concerns

[Excerpt from The ARRL Letter, July 3, 2008]

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written to Armond T. Mascelli, Vice President for Domestic Disaster response for the American Red Cross (ARC) to identify the ARRL's remaining concerns over the background check policy for ARC partners...

...ARC now requires a background check for Amateur Radio volunteers seeking to support a Red Cross disaster relief response for more than a seven day period. In the ARRL's view, Amateur Radio volunteers were being asked to consent to a more intrusive background check than was necessary or appropriate.

Mascelli's reply on May 8, 2008, addressed some of the ARRL's concerns... however, Harrison also states that analysis of the forms has revealed two continuing problems:

* The Authorization for Background Investigation consent form still contains "some highly equivocal and broad language which, because of its ambiguity, will inevitably discourage substantial numbers of radio amateurs from participating in the background check process."...

* The "Disclosure Regarding Background Investigation" can still be construed as overly broad, although this can be corrected by fairly simple edits.

Harrison told Mascelli, "We do not want the implementation of these additional changes to further delay the negotiation of the terms of a replacement SOU. A new SOU is, in my view, a critical and urgent matter. Because the old SOU expired on September 16, 2007, the vacuum thereafter has served neither ARRL nor ARC well." ARRL and ARC staffs are ready to work on a draft replacement SOU, the text of which will be reviewed by the ARRL's Programs and Services Committee and

approved by either the Executive Committee or the Board prior to completion...

EBARC is an ARRL-affiliated club. Please support the ARRL by becoming a member, if you haven't already done so.

EBARC Roster Update

NEW MEMBERS: Don E. Linstad, K6VAI, has an Extra ticket. He lives at 2608 Mendocino Dr., Pinole, CA 94564. His phone is 758-2608. His email is dlinstad@contracosta.edu. He likes HF DX and other ham activities. He also likes gardening and piloting airplanes. His non-ham wife, Andrea Linstad, has also joined.

NEW MEMBER: Katherine Branstetter learned about ham radio and EBARC at Field Day and is now an EBARC member. She lives at 216 Martina St., Point Richmond. Her phone is 234-9603. Welcome Katherine!

Future Bay Area Events

- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday of each month at Robertson Park, 7 a.m. to noon, all year. Talk-in 147.045 MHz. Info: Robert 925-560-5646 (h). More info at www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html
- South Bay Electronics Flea Market, 2nd Saturday of each month, March through October, De Anza College, Cupertino. Details at www.asvaro.org. Talk-in on 145.27 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL).
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. The remaining date for 2008 is Oct. 26th. Tests are in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), ..Oakland. The 2008 fee (and retest fee) is \$14. For info call 510-846-1587 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details, RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$25 for individual membership, \$30 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, call (510) 233-7509, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.eastbayarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The East Bay Amateur Radio Club maintains a club station, W6CUS, at 3200 Macdonald Ave., Richmond. The packet station, W6CUS-1, is on 145.630 Mhz, and is linked to the EAST BAY LAN (EBAY) on 223.720 Mhz.

2008 EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jack Burris, K6JEB, President & W6CUS Trustee 415-305-2547
 "Texx" Woodworth, KG6ATH, 1st VP - Program Chair 524-7452
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 Legislative Affairs
 RFI Committee Chair.....
 Historian
 Mark O'Brien, AF6FR, af6fr@yahoo.com, Ride Coordinator..... 650-776-1817

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"Going Home Group"	Mo-Fr	1600 (PL 82.5-)	145.110

Asst. EC West CoCoCo: Mike McMillan, K6MCM, mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, phone 510 223-3052.
 Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s.